

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested.

The Non-Final Office Action of September 30, 2005 has been carefully reviewed, and these remarks are responsive thereto.

Claims 1, 3-9, 11-14, 16-18, and 20-23 are pending. Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants amend allowable claim 21 to incorporate base claims 10 and 19; claims 10 and 19 are cancelled. Claims 2 and 15 also are cancelled. New claims 22 and 23 are added. Claims 1, 3, 7, 8, 16, and 17 are amended to more clearly state the claimed invention. No new matter has been added by these amendments to the claims.

Claims 1, 5, 8, 9, were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,801,747 Bedard in view of EP 1 091 581 A2 Smith.

Bedard discloses a viewer profile with information regarding the channels and programming watched by a viewer. Bedard further discloses that the table of television programs listings displayed on a screen in an Electronic Programming Guide is sorted according to the user profile such that the viewer's preferred channels or categories of programming is displayed at the top of the table. Bedard, col. 3, lines 33-56, and col. 7, lines 19-27. Smith discloses user selection of a subset of television program listings which are stored in memory and displayed at a later time. Smith, col. 1, lines 36-48.

However, the sorting of television program listings disclosed in Bedard is based merely on the time a given programming category is watched; Bedard does not disclose or suggest the use of a weighted combination of time viewed and relevancy of a

particular category in the viewed programming. Neither Bedard nor Smith, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests that the television program listings on an Electronic Program Guide or otherwise can be automatically filtered according to characteristics of the programs and viewer preferences regarding those characteristics to provide a customized program listings display. In addition, neither Bedard nor Smith, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests the ability of a viewer to select between a plurality of filtering modes as in the present invention. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 5, 8, 9 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bedard and Smith as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,701,523 Hancock et al. Hancock discloses blocking of programming based on program characteristics based on categories of programming preselected by a viewer. Col. 3, lines 20-24; col. 6, lines 27-37. The program listings for such blocked programs according to Hancock would still be displayed on the Electronic Program Guide. Col. 9, lines 37-40. Hancock thus teaches away from the present invention, which allows a viewer to block the display of program listings not meeting the viewer's preferences but which does not in any way block the viewer's ability to view those programs if desired. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-4 and 6 is respectfully requested.

Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bedard and Smith as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent 5,610,653 Abecassis. Abecassis discloses a content-on-demand systems where a user can filter television or other programming based on preselected criteria to provide a customized version of programming that does not contain any video segments meeting those

preselected criteria. Col. 3, lines 1-13. Abecassis is not directed to the customization of a display of television program *listings* as in Bedard or Smith. In addition, unlike Bedard, which uses the viewer's own viewing habits to sort program listings based on actual viewer preferences, Abecassis requires the user to set up a user profile in advance and preselect the categories of programming to be filtered based on those preselected criteria. There would thus be no motivation to combine Bedard and Smith with Abecassis. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-14 and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bedard in view of Smith and Hancock. Claims 10 and 19 have been cancelled, thus mooting their rejection. Claims 11-14 and 18-20 have been amended to depend from amended claim 21, which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11-14 and 18-20 is respectfully requested.

Claims 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bedard, Smith, and Hancock, as applied to claim 10 above, and further in view of Abecassis. Claim 15 has been cancelled, thus mooting the rejection. Claims 16-18 have been amended to depend from amended claim 21; which the Examiner has indicated would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Withdrawal of the rejection of 16-18 is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

All rejections having been addressed, none of the cited references, either alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the invention as claimed herein. Therefore, it is

Appln. No.: 09/879,573

Response to Office Action mailed September 30, 2005

respectfully submitted that claims 1, 3-9, 11-14, 16-18, and 20-23 are allowable over the cited prior art, and such allowance is respectfully requested.

Please charge any fees required by this amendment or credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Wang et al.

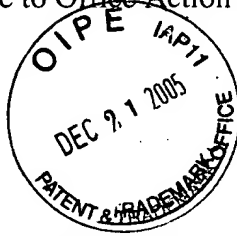
Date: Dec. 19, 2005

By: Catherine A. Ferguson
Catherine A. Ferguson
Reg. No. 40,877
(609) 734-6440

Patent Operations
Thomson Licensing, Inc.
P.O. Box 5312
Princeton, NJ 08543-0028

Appln. No.: 09/879,573

Response to Office Action mailed September 30, 2005



CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on 12-19-05 with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Catherine A. Ferguson
Name

Catherine A. Ferguson
Signature

40,877
Registration Number